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**THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):**

Amended Sheets (Pages 22-25)

Claims:

1. A process for preparing benzoic esters whose alkoxy groups have from 7 to 13 carbon atoms by reacting benzoic acid with at least one alcohol having from 7 to 13 carbon atoms, the water of reaction formed being removed from the reaction mixture during the esterification reaction by distillation with the alcohol used in excess, and the alcohol not converted in the esterification reaction being removed after the esterification reaction, characterized in that the reaction takes place in the presence of a tin(II) compound as catalyst at a temperature of 160 to 250°C and in that, without treatment with a base, the catalyst and/or its tin-containing derivatives are removed by filtering or by centrifuging from the reaction mixture which remains after the unconverted alcohol has been separated off, to an extent such that the tin content of the end product (filtrate) is below 1 mg/kg (ppm) and in that alcohols used are heptanols, 1-octanol, 2-octanol, 2-ethylhexanol, nonanols and/or tridecanols.
2. The process of claim 1, characterized in that a mixture of alcohols with the same or different number of carbon atoms is used.
3. The process of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the unconverted alcohol is removed by stripping, distilling or steam-distillation or by a combination of two or more of these methods.

4. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 3,
characterized
in that the unconverted alcohol is separated off
after the esterification reaction by vacuum
5 distillation and subsequent stripping with steam
or nitrogen.
5. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 4,
characterized
10 in that the catalyst is separated off at a
temperature below 160°C.
6. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 5,
characterized
15 in that the catalyst and/or derivative(s) thereof
is/are separated off from the reaction mixture,
after the alcohol has been separated off and
without base treatment, by filtration at
temperatures below 130°C.
- 20 7. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 6,
characterized
in that the volume of liquid removed from the
reaction mixture during the esterification by
25 (azeotropic) distillation is made up in whole or
in part with the reactant alcohol or reactant
alcohol mixture.
8. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 6,
30 characterized
in that the volume of liquid removed from the
reaction mixture during the esterification by
(azeotropic) distillation is partly recycled, by
separation of the liquid separated off into an
35 aqueous phase and an organic phase, and recycling
of the organic phase into the esterification
reaction.

9. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 6,
characterized
in that the volume of liquid removed from the
reaction mixture during the esterification by
(azeotropic) distillation is made up in whole or
in part, by separation of the liquid separated off
into an aqueous phase and an organic phase and
recycling the organic phase, additionally admixed
with fresh alcohol, into the esterification
reaction.
10. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 6,
characterized
in that the volume of liquid removed from the
reaction during the esterification by (azeotropic)
distillation is made up in whole or in part with
the fresh alcohol.
11. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 10,
characterized
in that tin(II) salts of monocarboxylic or
dicarboxylic acids are used as catalyst.
12. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 11,
characterized
in that a molar ratio of tin to benzoic acid of
 $10^{-5} : 1$ to $10^{-3} : 1$ is set at the beginning of the
reaction.
13. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 12,
characterized
in that a polymeric or ceramic membrane, composite
membrane or paper filter is used as filter.
14. The process of at least one of claims 1 to 13,
characterized

in that the benzoic acid is esterified to an acid number of <0.1 mg KOH/g, determined in accordance with DIN EN ISO 2114.

- 5 15. A composition comprising benzoic ester(s) and isononyl benzoate, obtainable by a process of at least one of claims 1 to 14.
- 10 16. The composition of claim 15, characterized in that the tin content of the product is below 1 mg/kg.
- 15 17. The use of the composition of one of claims 15 and 16 in paints, varnishes, adhesives or components of adhesives or as a viscosity reducer and/or plasticizer for PVC.